Teaching Commons Faculty Newsletter

Teaching Commons Faculty Newsletter NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2018

2018 Teaching in Focus (TIF) Conference – Register Today!

Registration is now open for our upcoming Teaching in Focus conference. Join us on December 5th from 9am to 4pm for an engaging day of workshops and plenaries on the theme of Student Engagement.

Learn more about our Opening Plenary speakers, Dawn Bazely and Pegah Nazeri on our website. Here is the link to learn more

Here is the link to register

Visit the Teaching Commons Lounge!

Are you looking for a place to connect with your colleagues? The Teaching Commons’ lounge is a great space to have an informal meeting or discussion related to teaching and learning activities on campus. If you are interested in learning more about how to use this space to connect with our teaching and learning community at York, please contact teaching@yorku.ca.

The Capstone Network

Do you teach a capstone course, or have you in the past? Are you interested in connecting with other faculty course members from across the university to share the features of your capstone course, learn from others, gain new ideas and perhaps even determine how to collaborate to offer your students a multidisciplinary experience? On Wednesday October 3rd, faculty from Dance, Engineering, Communication and Culture, Political Science and Global Health met for the first time to discuss the possibility of a capstone network. They shared their experiences designing and teaching capstone courses and began to brainstorm possibilities for the future. They are looking for ways to continue to build and develop their network. If you are interested in joining the Capstone Network via their listserv and website, please write to Danielle Robinson at drobin@yorku.ca and we hope to meet you soon!
Upcoming Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Workshops

An Overview of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

In this workshop, we will discuss the nature of SoTL, which aims to better understand student learning and the teaching practices that affect it. We begin from the standpoint that faculty are often already engaged in many aspects of SoTL, albeit unknowingly, and later provide a framework for a more systematic inquiry into teaching and learning. In doing so, we will highlight a 6-step process to engage in SoTL.

Session to be held on November 20, 2018 from 10am-12pm in room DB 1012

Here is the link to register

Designing an Ethical SoTL Study

In this workshop, we will consider the ethical requirements of a SoTL study and discuss how study design can alleviate ethical concerns in situations where one’s students are also their subjects of research. We will explore different research designs in light of what can realistically and ethically be studied within the confines of one’s classroom.

Session to be held on November 27, 2018 from 9:30am-11:30am

Here is the link to register

The Power of Conducting Qualitative Research: A Primer

In this two-hour workshop we will provide an overview of qualitative research in the context of doing the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL). Various situations will be explored where one might engage in this type of research. Participants will engage in a research design process and consider the requirements of a SoTL study. A case study will be presented to provide a concrete example of how qualitative research can be used to extract meaning.

Date and Time: November 19, 2018 10am to 12 noon

Location: DB 1012

Here is the link to register
Simulated Person Methodology (SPM) Workshop

This workshop will provide faculty members with the tools to apply and embed SPM in their teaching and to work with simulators in the context of a teaching-learning setting. This experiential learning initiative will provide opportunities for enhancing student success through hands-on practice and furthers opportunities for curriculum development. The workshop has been developed to educate educators in the effective use of simulation methodology and pedagogy to enhance practices in the classroom through the integration of simulated persons in their curriculum delivery.

Both days will run from **9:00am to 4:00pm**

**Date and location:** December 6 & 7, 2018 in DB 1009

[Here is the link to register](#)

How to Record Podcasts with Audacity Workshop

Time: Thursday, November 22, 12:00 pm – 1.30 pm

Location: DB1014

This is workshop II of the TC Podcast workshop series.

This is a hands-on workshop on using the Audacity® software to make quality podcast recordings for your teaching and research. This workshop focuses on guiding participants to learn and practice techniques to record and edit audio clips using Audacity®. We will also discuss appropriate tools for creating a podcast.

Please note that this is a face to face workshop. Participants will be asked to:

- Bring their own laptops and have the Audacity® software installed on their laptop before the workshop.
- Bring headphones to the workshop

[Here is the link to register](#)

**Note:** No prior experience with podcasting and Audacity® is required for attending this workshop series.

Audacity® is an easy-to-use free audio software. [Here is the link to download the software](#). For Audacity® system requirements, [here is the link for Windows](#) and [here is the link for Mac](#).

Please also kindly note that Audacity® is not supported by York University.
Free Resources

If you are having trouble finding copyright free content for your courses, have a look at this reference guide of resources we've created at the Teaching Commons. This guide has links to websites with images, music, clip art and more.

Here is the link to the page.

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Guide

Is universal design for learning (UDL) an integral part of your teaching practice? If yes, the Teaching Commons would like to feature you in a video showing how you are embedding UDL in your classroom. If interested, contact Geneviève Maheux-Pelletier at gmp@yorku.ca for more information.

Teaching & Learning in Experiential Education

Teaching & Learning in Experiential Education is a one semester program offered to all who teach at York as an opportunity to explore the pedagogy and planning involved in designing, facilitating, and assessing experiential education activities in their courses. Its main purpose is to provide guidance in the development of an experiential education course or an experiential activity as part of a course.

Faculty will meet 5 times in the term as a cohort, with 3 core sessions focusing on key elements of experiential education at York.

Each session will begin with a theme session outlining the topic before moving into an Action Learning Set and time for individual work and consultations. The Action Learning Sets are designed to leverage the expertise and experience of participants. This peer-based structure is designed to create a space for participants to share, collaborate, and support each other as they work toward personal goals related to integrating EE into their course and/or course activities. To fully benefit from this course, participants are expected to attend all sessions and work on the design of their course or course activity between sessions.

Session Dates:

Wednesday, January 9 10am-12pm DB 1014
Wednesday, January 30 10am-1pm DB 1014
Wednesday, March 6 10am-1pm DB 1009
Wednesday, March 27 10am-1pm DB 1014
Wednesday, April 17 10am-12pm DB 1014

Here is the link to register

Have you seen signs on campus offering tutoring and other support for your course? Did you know there are numerous websites where students can request to purchase a customized completed assignment for your class? This is contract cheating.

What can a course director do to counter this? It may feel quite overwhelming to consider all of the possible methods available to students to commit breaches in academic integrity. This workshop will provide you with proven strategies to promote academic integrity in your courses and design out plagiarism and cheating. You will have the opportunity to learn about a variety of strategies for promoting academic integrity in your course, including explaining to students why academic integrity is important. We will also explore ways to design assignments to safeguard academic integrity.

When: Thursday November 15, 10am-11:30am in DB 1014

Here is the link to register

Teaching Wheels – Winter 2018

The Teaching Commons will once again offer the Teaching Wheels program in the Winter term. Teaching Wheels are designed to support classroom practice by building community through a non-evaluative process of classroom observation and shared reflection. The focus is what you as a visitor learns from observing your Wheel partners.

Our Winter kick-off meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2019

Here is the link to register

Formative Classroom Observation Program

The Formative Classroom Observation Program is a collaborative activity, aided by an educational developer, designed to inspire conversation and encourage personal reflections on classroom teaching. It is open to a course at any level and of any type (e.g. lecture, seminar).

Here is a link to learn more

For more information, contact Lisa Endersby at lendersb@yorku.ca
2018 Fall Semester eLearning @ York Course

The eLearning @ York is a hands-on course that participants will design different components to draft a course design blueprint for their blended/fully online course. This is a blended learning experience comprising two two-hour face-to-face sessions and two online sessions followed by individual consultations. We have two offerings of this course during the Fall semester.

- Offering 1: Thursday, November 1, 2018, 10 am -12 pm in DB (formerly TEL) 1014 & Thursday, November 8, 2018, 10 am -12 pm in DB (formerly TEL) 1014

- Offering 2: Monday, November 12, 2018,1 pm – 3 pm in DB (formerly TEL) 1014 & Monday, November 19, 2018, 1 pm – 3 pm in DB (formerly TEL) 1009

Here is the link to register

Experiential Education Symposium – Accepting Student Applications

The Experiential Education (EE) Symposium showcases and celebrates experiential education at York University. Scheduled for January 22, 2019, this multi-disciplinary event is currently inviting students to submit applications to share a poster highlighting their EE experience with our York community.

If your students are interested in presenting a poster, more information and a link to apply can be found on the event page. Here is a link to the website.

Reading for Teaching

Have you read any good books on education lately? If the answer is yes, we would like to have your recommendation included in Reading for Teaching. In this regular feature, that will be shared via social media, great books on teaching and learning will be highlighted by the Teaching Commons’ staff and York faculty. If interested in participating, please contact Anna Augusto Rodrigues at aarod@yorku.ca.
TC eLearning Support

Do you need support integrating technology in your classroom? Are you working on converting your face-to-face instructions to blended or fully online delivery? The Teaching Commons can help. We offer one-on-one consultations and various supports on blended/fully online course design and development. The main contacts of the TC eLearning support team are:

Dr. Yelin Su, Educational Developer, ysu@yorku.ca

Yelin has a background in curriculum design and educational technology. She focuses on assisting instructors to design their online teaching and learning environment, particularly the design/selection of

- Course/unit structure and sequence
- Learning activities and assessment
- Technical tools
- Feedback mechanism

Dr. Anna Augusto-Rodrigues, Instructional Designer, aarod@yorku.ca

Anna has a background in Broadcasting and educational technology. She focuses on assisting faculty members to develop their online instructions, particularly assist instructors in

- Creating learning activities and assessment in a variety of formats
- Developing multimedia for content delivery
- Investigating new technologies for potential applications to instructional problems

Have you met SCOTAY? Student Consultants on Teaching at York

This academic year, the Teaching Commons has launched an exciting initiative: SCOTAY, or Student Consultants on Teaching at York. The SCOTAYs are undergraduate students with a keen interest in teaching and learning and the enhancement of the student experience. Their role is to provide a student voice into teaching and learning activities at York. This initiative follows a recent push in higher education to increase student participation in areas they have been traditionally excluded (e.g., course design), recognizing that as the primary audience their input is vital to designing effective learning environments.

We are inviting instructors from across the institution to participate in the SCOTAY program to help revitalize their teaching with the student perspective in mind. More specifically, the SCOTAYs have been trained here at the Teaching Commons to work with professors who are interested in receiving feedback on their teaching from a student not enrolled in their classes. The SCOTAYs are ready to observe a lecture and provide feedback based on a pre-observation meeting in which you and the student set goals and expectations for the observation. The program is overseen by two educational developers from the Teaching Commons who ensure that both the instructors and SCOTAYs receive adequate support throughout the process.

To enroll in the program as an instructor, here is the link to register.
**Teaching Academy**

This course is offered in the form of a monthly face to face meeting plus online activity over a period of 6 months (January-June). Using a hands-on and participant-centred, reflective, activity-based approach; participants will investigate the theory and practice of teaching in a Canadian University context. **ALL FACULTY** are welcome to participate!

**Location and Time:** DB 1014, from 9:30am-12:30pm

**Session dates:**

- Monday January 14, 2019
- Monday February 25, 2019
- Monday March 25, 2019
- Monday April 22, 2019
- Monday May 13, 2019
- Monday June 3, 2019

[Here is the link to register](

**November Teaching Commons Journal Club**

The Teaching Commons is hosting its next Journal Club conversation about the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) on Wednesday, November 14 from 1:30-2:30pm. Join us at the Teaching Commons for an informal discussion of **Sparking SoTL: Triggers and Stories from One Institution**. Journal Club participants are asked to read the chosen article in advance and come prepared to discuss their ideas, reactions, and questions with fellow colleagues interested in exploring innovation in teaching and learning.

[Here is the link to download the article](

[Here is the link to register](

**Have you read the latest Teaching Commons blog?**

The Teaching Commons publishes a weekly blog showcasing and sharing teaching and learning from a diverse group of colleagues across campus. Recent topics have included Teaching with a Colleague and The Five Minute Accessibility Makeover.

[Here is the link to the blog](

If you would like to contribute a blog, please contact Celia Popovic at cpopovic@yorku.ca